

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

INFO JCS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090600

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 090600 ACTION SAIGON 19 APRIL.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 090600

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, AEMR, VS

SUBJECT: STATUS OF VN LEGISLATION ON CAPITOL HILL

1. THE FOLLOWING SETS FORTH THE LEGISLATIVE SITUATION
REGARDING VIET-NAM AS OF APRIL 18.

2. MILITARY AID

(A) THE HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE HAS BEEN
UNABLE TO MUSTER ENOUGH VOTES TO GET ADDITIONAL AID
(DOLS 422 MILLION IN NEW AUTHORIZATION REQUESTED). THE
COMMITTEE HAS THEREFORE DELAYED THE VOTE. THE SENATE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE VOTED AGAINST ANY ADDITIONAL
AUTHORIZATION THURSDAY, BUT THE QUESTION MAY BE RE-OPENED
ON APRIL 21 OR 22.

(B) DOLS 300 MILLION, AUTHORIZED FOR MILITARY AID TO
VIET-NAM IN FISCAL 75, WAS NOT APPROPRIATED. THE
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APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEES MAY NOW APPROPRIATE SOME OF THIS

MONEY. WHILE CHANCES DO NOT APPEAR GOOD, WE MAY GET SOME OF THE DOLS 300 MILLION. THE SECRETARY IS APPEARING BEFORE THIS COMMITTEE ON APRIL 21.

3. HUMANITARIAN AND EVACUATION ASSISTANCE
PROSPECTS IN THIS SPHERE ARE BRIGHTER. THE HOUSE

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY REPORTED OUT A BILL WITH WHICH WE CAN LIVE. THE BILL PROVIDES DOLS 150 MILLION FOR HUMANITARIAN AND EVACUATION PURPOSES AND GIVES THE PRESIDENT AUTHORITY TO USE US ARMED FORCES IF NECESSARY IN EVACUATION OF:

(A) AMERICAN CITIZENS, (B) ALIEN DEPENDENTS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AND PERMANENT RESIDENTS OF THE US,(C) VIETNAMESE NATIONALS ELEGIBLE FOR IMMIGRATION TO THE US BY REASON OF THEIR RELATIONSHIP TO AMERICAN CITIZENS AND (D) SUCH OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS TO WHOSE LIVES A DIRECT AND IMMINENT THREAT EXISTS PROVIDED THAT AMERICAN FORCES NECESSARY FOR THEIR EVACUATION DO NOT EXCEED THOSE NECESSARY TO EVACUATE A, B AND C ABOVE. FLOOR ACTION IS SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 22. YESTERDAY THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORTED OUT LESS ACCEPTABLE LEGISLATION. WHILE THE SENATE BILL INCLUDES A SUM OF DOLS 200 MILLION, RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF AMERICAN FORCES TO EVACUATE VIETNAMESE ARE VERY NARROW. SENATE FLOOR ACTION IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY OR TUESDAY.

4. WE WILL SEEK TO AMEND THE SENATE BILL TO BRING CLOSER TO THE HOUSE VERSION. AT THE SAME TIME, OUR CURRENT ESTIMATE IS THAT THE SENATE BILL WILL CARRY ESSENTIALLY IN ITS PRESENT FORM BUT THE HOUSE BILL WILL PROBABLY BE AMENDED TO INCREASE RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF AMERICAN FORCES. THE EARLIEST DATE WE MIGHT EXPECT COMPLETED CONGRESSIONAL ACTION ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IS PROBABLY APRIL 23.

5. ANY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE WILL PROBABLY NOT BE COMPLETED BEFORE APRIL 23 OR 24. KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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